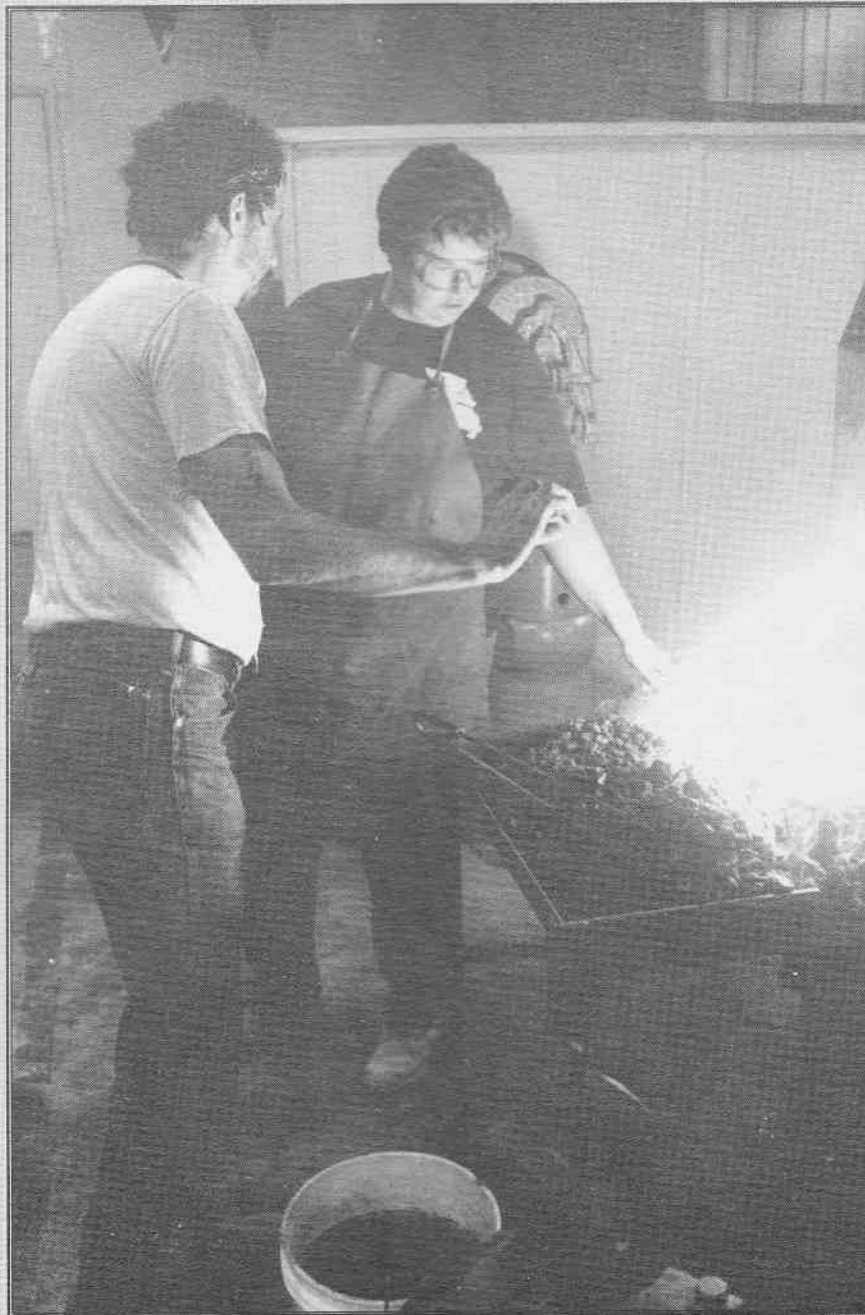


# BAM

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*May—June 1996*

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NEWSLETTER of the BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

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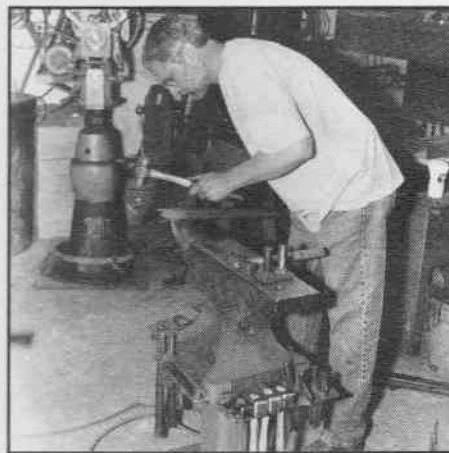
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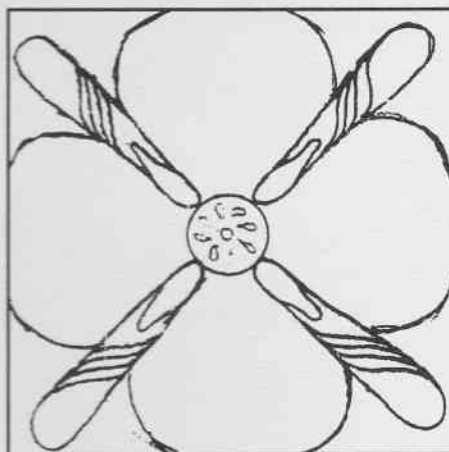
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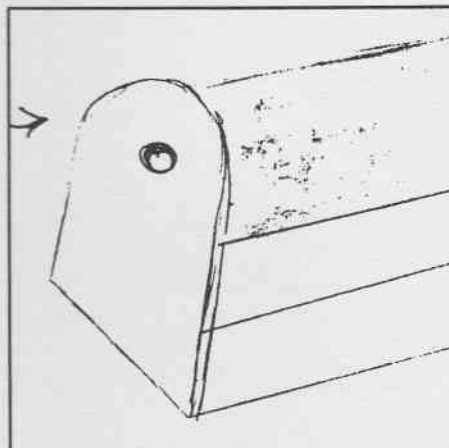
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# Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

May — June 1996

Volume 13 No. 3

**Our cover:** Jay Burnham-Kidwell offers some forge advice to Gena Briggs during the taper contest at the 1996 Ozark Blacksmith Conference. Jay was one of the demonstrators at the conference.

## Editor

Jim McCarty

## Contributing Editors

Bill Frabotta  
Kenny Valdejo  
Tom Clark  
Nathan Allen  
Bob Alexander  
Pat McCarty

## Mailing Labels

Maurice Ellis

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. The annual fee for regular membership is \$20/year; a portion of this amount is for a subscription to this newsletter for one year. Editorial inquiries should be addressed to: Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101; (573) 395-3304. BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: Gary Kobermann, 2337 Whitshire, St. Louis, MO 63129; (314) 892-2527. Occasionally some material will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent by the author. BAM welcomes the use of any other material printed in this newsletter provided the author and this organization be given credit.

## BAM Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member     Renewal

How did you learn about BAM? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need any tools? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$20, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter. Please make checks payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

## ABANA Membership Application

Primary ABANA Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member     Renewing Member

How did you learn about ABANA? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Regular Member .....\$35 yr.
- Senior Citizen (Age 65) .....\$30 yr.
- Fulltime student .....\$25 yr.
- Overseas airmail .....\$70 yr.
- Overseas surface mail .....\$50 yr.
- Contributory .....\$100 yr.
- Public library .....\$25 yr.

See reverse

# BAM

Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:

BAM,  
c/o Gary Kobermann  
2337 Whitshire,  
St. Louis, MO 63129

## Officers:

**President**  
Pat McCarty

**1st Vice President**  
Bob Alexander

**2nd Vice President**  
Vernon Fisher

**Secretary**  
John Murray

**Treasurer**  
Gary Kobermann

The Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri is a chapter of the Artist Blacksmiths' Association of North America, and is devoted to the preservation and advancement of blacksmithing and to communication among blacksmiths in Missouri and surrounding areas. BAM's newsletter's goal is to support these aims. Letters to the editor, tech tips, tools for sale or anything else which furthers these ends will be considered for publication.

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri and its members do not manufacture, distribute, sell, test, warrant, guarantee, or endorse any of the tools, materials, instructions or products contained in articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any articles or features in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information contained in the Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri.

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby apply for membership in the Artist-Blacksmiths' Association of North America and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as my annual membership dues for one year.

MasterCard       VISA       Check/Money Order

Card Number 

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Exp. Date (Required) 

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Checks must be in U.S. currency

SEND RENEWAL TO:

**ABANA**

P.O. BOX 206, Washington, MO 63090 (314) 390-2133

Dues Distribution:

1 year subscription Anvil's Ring: 68.5 % \$24

Adm. offices & other ABANA projects (Conferences, etc.): 31.5% \$11

## Editor's anvil

Can't remember when I had so much fun in one weekend! I am referring, of course, to the Ozark Conference Weekend May 3-5. I know I echo a lot of our members when I say I learned more at this conference than I have anyplace else.

When I pulled into Potosi our seasoned crew of conference veterans already had things running smoothly. I met demonstrator Jay Burnham-Kidwell for the first time almost right away. He was standing around John Murray's truck, where we were all chewing on John's sausage and admiring the one tool he brought to the conference — a monster fly press destined for Andrew MacDonald's shop.

Jay proved to be a real wildman and an excellent demonstrator, as were Dorothy Stiegler and Bob Haverstock. We have all heard a lot about these three folks and it was nice to get to know them personally as well as witness their work.

Another plus was having Norm Larson's books at the conference. I have talked to Norm before and thumbed through his catalog marking what I want but can't afford. I came home with three new books to add to my library.

There were many big names at the conference, including Clay Spencer, Fred Caylor, Sid Suedemeier and Clifton Ralph. Sid unveiled for the first time his little Little Giant's — a scale model of the real thing that probably would work for jewelers. Look for these to be sold in kit form soon.

This was the first time I have seen our contest really happen. We actually had more contestants than iron to be forged. What was neat was the folks who entered just to get a chance at the forge. We saw some masterful demonstrations of power hammering. I was real impressed by how hard Steve Austin, John Murray and Dan Siglar can hit. Don't think I saw them miss much either.

We had nice weather for a change and I think everyone got to enjoy Tom Clark's bonfire this year. There was a crowd around it until the wee

hours. Having the bonfire and contest on Friday left us more time for both and nothing to interfere with the auction.

Speaking of the auction, there was a lot of magic going on that night. I've never seen such a display of generosity before. In case you missed it, here's some of what happened: As usual, Tim Ryan and John Stovesand teamed up to clean our wallets real good.

But then strange things began happening, like Fred (still got my first quarter) Caylor jumping his own bid three times to buy the services of one V.J. McCrackin. Almost all of the blacksmiths who were for sale offered to take on the second highest bidder.

One of those second place finishers was Gena Briggs, who wanted to learn hammer making from John Murray but decided she couldn't afford it and withdrew her bid. Gena is everyone's favorite, so it wasn't two seconds before the table in front of her was piled with bills to pay her way. She was so happy she gave everyone a hug who pitched in, much to the dismay of Col. Ryan who wanted a hug but couldn't afford it.

Gena's husband, Bill, promptly hauled out his wallet and covered Tim, who was far from home and still smarting from his loss in the anvil shooting competition. (Which by the way went to a truly bred man of Missouri, Gay Wilkinson, as it should have — thanks for the \$300 Gay, it will be useful.)

More magic happened when the anvil Mike Botts donated, with proceeds earmarked for the JK Reynolds Scholarship Fund, came up for auction. It was a beautiful Hay-Budden of an anvil, and it was going way too cheap until Mike bought it back for \$200. What a guy — donates an anvil and then makes sure it goes high!

Another interesting phenomenon that can only happen at a Tim Ryan auction occurred when Doug Hendrickson's single pancake fry pan came up for bid. It too was going cheap (folks were saving up for a lighter weight Maurice Ellis model) when it was discovered that one Bonnie Hendrickson was doing the bid-

ding. It seems that, like a lot of wives, Bonnie has none of Doug's iron and no amount of begging would get him to make her anything.

So Bonnie bought the pan, but only after successfully outbidding her husband.

The magic wasn't through however. Three years ago Tom Clark put one of his celebrated leaves into the auction. That leaf raised several hundred dollars for the start of the Tom Clark Fellowship Fund. Paul Rice from Indiana ended up with the leaf, and he used it to start a similar fund in Indiana. Somehow the leaf ended up back in Missouri and Tim used it to bring in another \$750 for BAM. This time the leaf had a wizard from Indiana attached to it. It is going back to Indiana, but this time it has grown from Tom's leaf to several more prized leaves taken from BAM keyrings that night.

There was more magic in the air. Jeff Pittman, a young blacksmith who is getting pretty good at knife work, will be going to the next Batson Knifemaking Symposium funded by the fellowship, and Tom Clark offered to drive him if dad can't.

We also saw the "last damned Jay Burnham-Kidwell table" sell to Bill Pieh's wife. Bet Jay makes one more.

Before the auction ended we added \$7,100 to our treasury. We also awarded four scholarships that will ensure another round of demos and newsletter articles on new techniques. These went to Ken Markley, Tom Clark, Bob Alexander and Phil Cox.

And Tom Clark pulled a real fast one on Pat and I by awarding the Bob Patrick Founder's Award to us. The award is a bronze anvil with the names of the past recipients on it. It makes a real nice cut-off anvil. Really saving the cutting edges on my chisels.

Thanks to everyone who made the conference happen, especially chairman Maurice Ellis and the handful of people who braved the rainstorm to get things torn down at the end. Can't wait for next year.

—Jim McCarty

# Dear BAM,

Dear Jim,

After attending the March meeting at your shop I felt compelled to write to you about an issue concerning more than myself. While your shop was nice, much nicer than where I work, I did not enjoy the time spent at yours.

The problem? While I am not a charter member or even close, I am a member in good standing. And I joined this club to learn and maybe be part of something.

The inconsiderate behaviour of at least half in attendance at your meeting and others has caused me to question renewing my membership.

Noise!! With all the visiting, joking around and loud talking and laughing, I could not even hear the demonstrator tell how he was going about his project.

I like to have fun as much as anyone, but I try not to impose my enjoyment on someone else who is trying to enjoy something else. I suggest that in the future the host of the meeting announce the beginning of the demonstrations LOUDLY. If a person is not interested in the demonstrations that person should not prevent others from enjoying it. They can either talk softly or maybe just go somewhere else.

— C. Allen Verman, Cuba, Mo.

*Editor's Note: Allen has a good point. Let's all try to be a little more conscience of what is going on and take the conversations to a place where they won't bother others. Otherwise it's rude to the demonstrator and those who want to hear them.*

Dear Fellow BAMsters,

We all have witnessed Lou Mueller's enthusiastic involvement in blacksmithing education. He has been the ramrod for several workshops at his place, chaired the 1994 ABANA Conference and is currently developing a traveling teaching program for ABANA. Language is one of the prime vehicles of education and communication. When the teacher and



*Bill Frabotta sent in this photo of the arch and sign he forged for the Bean Cemetery in Lincoln, Okla. Bill says he enjoyed seeing all the BAM folks at Steve Austin's. Bill runs a shop in Westville, Okla. It was good to see you too, Bill. Nice job on the sign.*

student have a common language the possibility for communication is greatly enhanced. Lou's language is very personal, creative and many times, not standard English. It's a dull person that pronounces words the same as everyone else. If that person begins to teach then his students may need a guide to his creative language. To that end I am assembling a lexicon of "Louisisms" that we may all understand his words and profit from his wisdom. Please send me any "Louisisms" that I might translate them into standard English.

Examples:

Spechini=zucchini  
parsley print=paisley print  
Grichner=Bill Gichner  
mcarth=McCarty  
casted iron=cast iron  
cole slaw=Kohlswa

Sincerely,

— Doug Hendrickson, RR1, Box 16D,  
Lesterville, MO 63654

Dear Jim,

The Louisiana Metalsmith Association would like to present to your organization one free admission cer-

tificate to our Conference, "Banging on the Bayou III." Our conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5 and Sunday, Oct. 6. We do appreciate your support. Please present this free admission certificate to one of your members. Thank you again for your support.

— Buddy Leonard, president,  
Louisiana Metalsmiths Association

*Editor's note: Thanks Buddy for the offer. See the Happenings section if you are interested in going.*

Mr. Kobermann,

Thank you very much for the two sample newsletters. Enclosed find my check for enrollment. I am looking forward to the upcoming events. I am very much a novice, but enjoy tremendously the time at the fire. I am wishing to be period, of about mid-1800s I suppose. Are there any members period to that era? I would like very much to correspond with them. Thanks again,

— DeWayne (Randy) Magnuson,  
27489 Hwy. 127, Green Ridge, MO  
65332.

## Pat's Place



Tom Clark presented the Bob Patrick Founder's Award to the McCarty Brothers, Pat and Jim, at the Ozark Conference. Jim is the good looking one with the clean face.

There's only a few weeks left until the ABANA Conference. I hope everyone has their auction items almost done. I'm a little behind on mine due to all the things going on. The Ozark Conference was a big success! Maurice Ellis did a great job this year. We had some super demonstrators. The forging contest went over real big. Even Steve Austin got in and won first place in the longest taper. He can really swing a hammer.

A lot of rusty iron changed hands in the tailgate area and we raised over \$7,000 at the auction. Thanks to Tim Ryan and John Stovesand for their auctioneering talents. We were able to raise over \$500 from donations for the J.K. Reynolds Scholarship fund, so this year we gave four full scholarships. Thanks to Mike Botts for putting us over the top with his anvil donation.

Tom Clark's bonfire lit up the sky at night and even the weather was nice with just a few showers. Plans are already underway for the '97 conference so mark your calendar for the first weekend in May, 1997.

About 50 members showed up at Steve Austin's for the May meeting. Steve showed us how his big trip hammers work and we got to see some

fancy railing work in progress.

Tom Clark and Jerry Hoffmann teamed up to make a hot cut to go in the BAM Box at the ABANA Conference. Walt Hull and Kate Dineen were next and they split 5/8 inch square on the diamond to make a diamond shaped opening for a balluster — pretty slick. Walt had his hair in a ponytail so I guess he has a studio now instead of a shop.

I demonstrated making a flower and leaf from a lag screw to finish the demonstrations. We raised \$257 from Iron in the Hat and T-shirt sales. Thanks to all who donated something to the iron in the hat.

We picked up a few nominees for the election of officers at the next meeting. We still need some more. Jim McCarty is the election committee chairman. Call him if you would like to get involved. We all have ideas on the direction BAM needs to go. If you want to get some action on your ideas, the best way is to get on the board and get involved. It's a fun job and I know from experience that the membership will support you.

Hope to see everyone in Alfred!

—Pat McCarty

## New Members

Curt Prichard  
322 Stafford  
Washington, MO 63090

Brett Pier  
RR2 Box 427-A  
Athens, IL 62613  
(217) 636-8528

Larry Lustfeldt  
610 E. Chestnut  
Chatham, IL 62629  
(217) 483-6203

Chris Gau  
HCR 63, Box 7C  
Fletcher, MO 63030  
(314) 678-2574

Bill Paulsen  
HCR 69-531  
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079  
(573) 374-4105

Glenn Gilmore  
PO Box 57  
Brasstown, NC 28902  
(704) 837-4326

John Lane  
1127 MacGregor Ln.  
Mt. Vernon, IA 52314  
(319) 895-8610

Les Filer  
Rt.2 Mt. Sterling Rd.  
Bland, MO 65014  
(573) 943-6714

Stephen Hull  
27869 Hwy. 5 North  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
(417) 532-5319

Michael Glisson  
1802 Big Bill  
Arnold, MO 63010  
(314) 296-9414

Tom Donovan  
539 Town Hall Ct.  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
(314) 469-7105

# BAM MAY MEETING

*Below: May meeting host Steve Austin got things started with a demo at his anvil and power hammers. Steve showed how he forges bunches of leaves and did some work with channel iron.*



by Jim McCarty

Once a year we get a chance to put ourselves in Walt Hull and Steve Austin's shoes and see what it's like driving across the state to a BAM meeting. This year it was Steve's turn to host the BAM crowd. Steve has done some major changes to his shop on Kansas City's north side. From the outside it looked the same but inside walls have been torn down and major changes have been made to house all the work he's been doing.

Steve got the meeting started with a nice demo. He showed us how he makes leaves for starters, veining them on a hardy tool that can only be described as obscene. (Sorry the censors wouldn't let me sketch this one — ed.) Steve makes these leaves by the boatload. He said he gets \$15 each for leaves and \$50 in clusters of three.

While he waited for the stock to come up to temp in his gas forge he talked about some of the tribulations of making railings and gates in a metro area. One of the biggest hassles for him is finding out the laws governing railings. Most incorporated areas have standards you have to follow, especially where swimming pools are concerned. This is to keep kids from getting through the openings. Steve advises to do your homework here as these regulations change often. He says filling in the open spaces is a real pain when it comes to design work.

Steve had a beautiful railing in the shop that was primed and ready for finish-

ing.

He showed off some nice end treatments for bars and did some work with channel iron, using a pair of big hammers, a Beaudry and a 100 pound Little Giant that was surrounded by guards — I heard he had pieces of Little Giant flying through the air and decided to make the thing safe.

When Steve finished Walt Hull fired up the coal forge and, with the help of Kate Dineen, showed us how to make a unique forge welded diamond on the diamond. This looked more difficult than it turned out to be as Walt took us through the process step by step.

He started by slitting a piece of 5/8 square on the diamond. This is done in the swage block. Then he sawed halfway through the slit and opened the piece up for one half of the diamond. He forged a second matching piece and forge welded these together to form the diamond. Walt's trade item was a balluster forged in this manner, with collars tying the piece together.

The next demo seemed like *deja vu* all over again — Tom Clark and Jerry Hoffmann teamed up to forge a hot cut for the BAM box being put together for the ABANA conference. The two teamed up in similar fashion at the meeting when I joined BAM 4 years ago.

Pat McCarty rounded out the demos by showing how he makes leaves and flowers from lag bolts, a simple but elegant project to try.

We had a great feed of Kansas City barbeque and enjoyed picking through Steve's dumpster which was full of interesting bits of iron. About 50 people were on hand for the meeting. We had a great turnout for the trade item and Iron in the Hat, which netted \$247.

Thanks to Steve for hosting us again, and to all who donated to the Iron in the Hat.

## Minutes

Pat called the meeting to order.

- Thanks to Steve Austin for hosting us.
- Minutes approved as published.
- Thanks for donations to JK Reynolds Scholarship — \$500 plus.





Above: Walt Hull and Kate Dineen teamed up to show us how to forge a diamond on the diamond balluster from 5/8 inch square stock.

- Donations needed for "BAM box" tool box for the 1996 ABANA Conference. Pat McCarty is making the chest, BAM members encouraged to donate handmade tools. The entire chest and contents will be auctioned as one item. Tom Clark is collecting the tools.
- Jay Burnham-Kidwell sends his regards, says thanks for the experience.
- Thanks to Maurice Ellis for a job well done in organizing the 1996 Ozark Conference.
- BAM Insurance Policy almost up, we will be changing companies for new policy (after crunching numbers.
- Discussion of buying trailer to haul BAM equipment for meeting and teaching purposes. BAM owns forges, anvils, a sound system, etc. Also T-shirts, back issues of newsletter and more need to be transported. Speak to a BAM officer if you have a suggestion or a trailer to donate.

- Discussion of video monitor purchase. More to come.
- BAM elections at July meeting. Contact Jim McCarty with nominations, which will be published in the next newsletter.
- Rocky Mountain Blacksmiths Association Conference in August (15-18). Will be a hands-on workshop with Francis Whitaker and several other demonstrators. BAM members encouraged to check this one out.
- Bob Patrick will demonstrate at Mt. Vernon, Ill. last weekend in October.
- Discussion of demo standards for future conferences.
- Discussion of more family activities (for non-smiths) during Ozark conference.
- Meeting adjourned. Trade items made by Pat McCarty, Phil Williamson, Phil Cox, Walt Hull, Kate Dineen and Bob Alexander.

Iron in the Hat went as follows:

4147 Steel donated by Steve McGhee went to Phil Williamson  
 Acorns donated by Phil Cox went to Randy Carrier  
 Back scratcher donated by Pat McCarty went to Jim McCarty  
 Tool steel from Phil Williamson went to David Hoopes  
 Pencil holder from Cliff Gilliam went to Marty Finlay  
 Pat McCarty candle holder donated by Cliff Gilliam went to Bob Alexander  
 Gay Wilkinson anvil went to Ed Wieberg  
 Tom Clark leaf went to Mike Flade  
 Letter opener from Jim McCarty went to Bob Alexander  
 Candle stick from Pat McCarty went to Ken Markely  
 Hammer from John Murray went to Phil Cox

— Submitted by John Murray, BAM secretary



## President's Message June, 1996

### Arts and crafts showcased

I know from reading various articles in Chapter Newsletters and other publications that there are several places around the country that provide a place for blacksmiths and other producers of arts and crafts to showcase and sell their products. Such a facility has just opened in West Virginia and it is really a showplace. It is known as "Tamarack - The Best of West Virginia." Tamarack is an evergreen tree that grows in West Virginia. The facility was built at a cost of \$17 million and is being billed as unique 50,000 square foot retail/art/craft/visitor center, showcasing, marketing and promoting West Virginia made arts, crafts and agricultural products.

If you are traveling through West Virginia east or west on Interstate 64 or north or south on Interstate 77 you will see the facility at Beckley, West Virginia, adjacent to the Beckley Travel Plaza. If you have the opportunity to visit Tamarack please do, it will be well worth your time.

Forged items for sale at Tamarack range from beds and other furniture to fireplace sets, kitchen utensils, letter openers and paper weights. There are on-going demonstrations by blacksmiths, woodworkers, glassworkers and others. Being a West Virginia facility it will provide an excellent opportunity for us to promote the Appalachian Blacksmith Association and it will also provide an opportunity to promote ABANA and I certainly will do that.

### ABANA director election

I hope to see many of you at Alfred this month and I hope to talk to some of you about your willingness to become more involved in the affairs of ABANA by being a candidate for the 1996 election of directors. If you have any interest at all in being a candidate, talk to me or one of the other directors at the Conference. We will do our best to answer any questions that you may have.

### Hindsight safety reminder

Another safety rule violated, another sore toe. I have a bad habit of laying heavy objects on top of the anvil when it is not in use. This time it was the bottom plate from my treadle hammer. I knocked it off and it hit my big toe. Was I wearing safety toe shoes? No. Did it hurt? You bet it hurt! The fact that it could have been so easily avoided didn't make it feel any better. I do try, but I hope your safety habits are better than mine.

Joe Harris  
ABANA President

BIG Hammer for sale: Tom Clark has a 100-pound Little Giant for sale. This is the old style hammer, perfect condition, ready to run. Your choice of dies. He will take the best offer over \$4,000. For more info call him at (573) 438-4725. Also, Tom has expanded his line of hammer handles. He has the slim line plus all other types of handles.

For sale: Bantam Ironworker, lots of dies, \$1,000. Edwards No. 1 sheer. Treadle hammer kit, fixed design, no spring or treadle. \$350. Call Don Asbee (573) 657-4185.

Heavy duty frying pan blanks, steel, approx. 9 inches diameter with 2 inch sides — 12 gauge (.095) thickness. Has two 3/16 inch holes for your decorative handle, \$7.75 each, \$7 for 5-9, \$6 for 10 or more pans. Shipping \$2.50 plus 50 cents for each pan. Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722.

Announcing: New how-to Manual for beginning blacksmiths titled: 101 Metal Projects for the Novice Blacksmith, by Al Canella. This is a how-to shop manual for beginning blacksmiths with step-by-step explanations and clear drawings to ensure successful completion of each project. Available postpaid for \$29. Write to: Al Cannella, 1310 Walter Reed Rd., Cookeville, TN 38501.

For sale: 70 pound ram air hammer. Total weight 1,000 pounds, 180 blows per minute. Requires 5 hp 2 stage air compressor. \$2,500. Also 25 pound ram air hammer. Total weight 400 pounds, 180+ blows per minute. Can be operated with small air compressor (3 hp, 20 gallon tank). \$2,000. Contact Maurice Ellis, (573) 766-5346.

David Oliver always has swage blocks — custom cut to your design or his — for sale. He usually has a power hammer or two and all sorts of other stuff for sale. David Oliver, PO Box 3452, Bristol, TN 37625, or phone (615) 878-5712.

For power hammer parts machined to your specs give Russell Cashion a call

at (615) 731-3215. He also has a 1,000-pound and a 700-pound anvil for sale.

Nathan Allen says he has found a broommaker who does excellent work at reasonable prices. All he needs is a flattened portion on the end of your handle, a 1/4-inch hole drilled in it and the overall length needed. He charges \$10 per broom, you cover shipping and handling. Contact Joe Batterton, PO Box 232, Rockaway Beach, MO 65740 or call (417) 561-5367.

Tom Rowland, BAM's northernmost member still living in Missouri, invites us all to come visit his business, the Trading Post, in Unionville. This unique store caters to the buckskinning crowd. They have black powder rifles available on consignment and all kinds of handcrafted items. He says he still has room for more craftwork and needs our iron to sell along with the Damascus blades he hawks himself. For more info contact Tom at (816) 933-4975.

Budding knifemaker Mark Holson finds himself in the unique situation of having two anvils and no belt sander. He wants to either trade his 103 pound Hay Budden for a belt sander or sell the anvil for enough to buy one. If anyone is interested call (417) 962-5485 or write to him at Box 5415, Hwy 63, Houston, MO 65483.

For sale: 50-pound Little Giant, old style with wrap-around ram guides, no removeable sow block. Working condition, comes with a slow rpm (1160 rpm) 1 hp motor. \$1,500. Still have a pedestal grinder, two Champion 400 blowers that now turn and one Champion blower that runs off a flat belt, \$35 each. For more info call Jim McCarty at (573) 659-3421 (days) or (573) 395-3304 (nights or weekends).

New member Curt Prichard is looking for a forge and an anvil if anyone has some old tools they want to part with. He wants a larger forge in good repair if possible. Curt can be reached at (314) 390-3976.

# BAM

## Bulletin Board

Ray Robertson at Laurel Machine and Manufacturing says the company has some more neat stuff coming for blacksmiths. They have been making a lot of the conferences with their line of swage blocks, cones and hardy tools for the past couple of years. Now they are adding anvils to the list. Ray says they have a 400-pounder that they are getting ready to pour. He says their current metalurgy results in a Rockwell 60 hardness that is real lively. He says they are also make anvil plates to fit the Clay Spencer treadle hammers. For more info on their products call Ray at (601) 428-0541.



THE SMITH

# What I did on my summer vacation

by Kenny Valdejo

At the last BAM conference I had the great good fortune to receive an educational scholarship. I had learned of a course in dating and identifying early building hardware and decided to apply for the scholarship, and I got it.

The course was at The Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies in Mt. Carroll Illinois which is located in the extreme northwest corner of the state. The center is located on the site of what was Shimer College. It started off in the last century as a Catholic girls college. It later became a co-ed liberal arts school until its eventual decline and closing.

A local businessman donated the initial money to start the present center, hence the name.

I was somewhat of an anomaly because the courses are set up primarily for museum directors and collection conservators. A lot of the participants come from the National Park Service and various state historical agencies. Private individuals are somewhat rare at Campbell.

The campus buildings date to the turn of the century and would be interesting for someone interested in brick architecture of that period. There are a lot of leaded glass fanlights and transoms. The trees on the campus are worth stopping for if you are ever in the area. The largest chestnut tree in Illinois is located there and the biggest redbud that I've ever seen. Outside my dormitory was a large

funny looking bush. After I looked at it more closely, I figured out that it was a yew, about 15 feet tall with branches as big as my arm. Never knew they got that big.

Peter Priess, a staff field archeologist with Parks Canada was the instructor for the course. Although he was not a blacksmith, he had considerable knowledge of construction techniques and the general history of the metal trades. He had corresponded with Donald Streeter through the years before Mr. Streeter's death concerning construction techniques. Parks Canada sends Mr. Priess to various locations to conduct digs.

The course was primarily concerned with dating and identification of building hardware. Archeological sites are usually dated by the buildings and their attendant hardware. Occasionally relics are broken or ends corroded completely off so it is important to have an idea of what it was before mother nature got to it.

Nails are probably the biggest problem. A really rusty piece of stock could be mistaken for a nail and vice versa. Another problem with nails is the great overlap in use and manufac-

If you were going to open a fur trading station at the edge of civilization, would you anticipate all of your nail and hardware needs or would you take the parent stock and make it on site as it was needed?

turing techniques. If you were going to open a fur trading station at the edge of civilization, would you anticipate all of your nail and hardware needs or would you take the parent stock and make it on site as it was needed? This is what the Hudson Bay Company did. They made it as was needed until transportation became available to take care of need.

Another problem with nails was remodeling. As buildings were enlarged and changed, the newer technology was introduced. So, it helped to know when the changes took place and under what circumstances. In rural areas a lot of salvaged hardware was used. In fact, Virginia passed a law in the 1600's making it illegal to burn a building to salvage the nails. People would move and burn the old house down to get the nails for the new house.

Styles change through the years just as they do today. Remember when stereo equipment was all walnut cases? Now they are designer black. Computers were all beige now they are coming out in colors. It appears that our ancestors were slaves to fashion much as we are. They were also dictated to by the manufacturers much as we are today. It can be made faster and cheaper, it will be done that way and if you or they want something different, then you and they will pay a premium for the privilege, the same as we do our clients and customers today.

Old catalogs of the day are very useful in the dating of goods. A change in technology was prominently noted in the catalogs until the newer products became commonplace. Remember the reciprocating saws from a few years back? Now everyone makes one and it's no big deal.

Another interesting feature of the old catalogs was that they left nothing to your imagination. If they sold 39 different kinds of nails then they would have a picture of all 39 types. It didn't matter if the ranged upward in 1/16 inch increments, every single one of those 39 nails would be proudly displayed. I saw one catalog that had a full size picture of a 16 inch boat spike, I guess they didn't want you to mistake it for their 12 inch model. Everything was very, very literal.

Just as today, taste, availability, and price determine what will be used. To a somewhat lesser degree is ease of installation. Some of you will remember rim locks that mounted on the outside of the door. These were used well into the 1930s and 1940s, even

after mortise locks were quite common. Install one of those large mortise locks and then put on a rim lock. My grandfather used rim locks on the house that he built because they were easier to install. This is probably the reason that door latches and bolts were mounted on escutcheon plates. They able to be mass produced and you could pick one up at the local ironmonger.

My interest in hardware started off as idle curiosity. Smithing was interesting and it was an aspect of smithing.

By the late 18th century building hardware, especially interior hardware for the common people, was starting to become much less obvious. This was around the time of the cast butt hinge (patented in 1774). Public buildings still used it somewhat as ornamentation just as today, but in private dwellings it was fading into the woodwork (that was a fantastic pun, I think). You have to go back 200 years in historic buildings to see any really good examples of hardware.

The one exception to this is rural areas. If they were off the beaten track they used or made do with what was available. Also the nature of the building somewhat dictated the hardware.

A barn may have hardware made by the farmer or his neighbor if they were capable or salvaged or scavenged. Much as we sometimes do today. The more that things change the more they stay the same.

My interest in hardware started off as idle curiosity. Smithing was interesting and it was an aspect of smithing. Also, when you are starting out, it's easier to make a hinge or door knocker than a driveway gate or fence.

I got involved at the local historic sites as a volunteer because of my

blacksmithing, they thought that I might be handy to have around. This is a very good way to make contacts and meet people who may be useful to you later.

The village of Cahokia is the oldest existing village in the Mississippi Valley. There is a log courthouse dating from 1735, a log church from 1799, and the oldest existing brick building in Illinois dating from 1810 (it survived the New Madrid earthquake). All of this existing history just got me more interested. The problem was that as I became more knowledgeable more things didn't seem to fit.

The courthouse was moved several times between the 1904 World's Fair and an island in Chicago. It was "restored" as a partial WPA project in the 1930s. The Jarrot Mansion, the brick building, had been worked on and remodeled several times. When the state of Illinois decided to do a partial restoration in 1992 I was given the hardware contract. After much research I designed basic latches and bolts on escutcheon plates. The architect, Philip Cotton, had doubts about the design and took a trip east to check it out. When he came back he admitted that there was no specific style just general styles and a lot of variety. Just as we do it today.

I might add here that before I got the contract, he had me make a small drop bar latch for Mark Twain's boyhood home in Hannibal. I think that this was a test of sorts. I guess I passed.

I have since been requested to do a detailed hardware survey of the existing doors, in the Jarrot Mansion, looking for ghosts and footprints of previous hardware. I am looking forward to put my newly gained knowledge into effect.

To sum all of this up, I would like to quote Jerry Garcia, "what a long strange trip it's been."

You never know where life is going to lead you so don't be afraid to jump in, you will get your feet wet and it might be over your head but someone will be there to throw you a line. Chances are it will probably be one of the boy's from BAM.

## Odds and ends

- Bolt threads weren't standardized until the early 20th century. The hand made ones were slightly square and had thinner nuts than we use today.

- Arc welding was invented around 1885, Acetylene about 1903, and in 1907 the flux coated rod was invented for the Arc welder.

- c. 1800 a patent was applied for cast nails. Cut nails were being made in Massachusetts by 1775. Wire nails were advertised in French publications as early as 1850, by 1880 wire nails were common and dominant by 1900. Square cut nails were commonly used in flooring until the 1940s and 50's. There was a special bel-lows nail, cast brass with a large head for attaching the leather.

- By the late 18th century door hardware was being mounted on escutcheon plates, what we refer to as a Norfolk latch.

- In 1840 the gimlet or pointed screw technology was patented, until then, they had a straight shank with a somewhat rounded point. The countersunk screw came about because of the butt hinge.

- When making pintles, make one pin a little longer, it makes setting a heavy door a lot easier.

- Pin tumbler locks were patented in 1865. Locks with exposed mechanisms began to fade in the early 18th century, after that the door side of the works was encased. The English used the straight keyhole and the French used the more ornate and odd shaped keyholes. French locks usually used an "S" spring, English used a straight leaf spring.

- To cut a lead screw for a lathe, wind 2 wires around a rod, parallel. Unwind one of the wires and file a groove where it was, using the other wire as a guide. Do this when you have some time on your hands.

# Reconsidering the Rings

Saying thanks to those who made the 1994 chapter project come together

by Tom Clark

In 1994 the largest gathering of blacksmiths in modern history took place at the ABANA Conference in St. Louis. That coming together was symbolized by the Chapter Ring Project that was built by many people in many different places and assembled on site.

It has been two years since the St. Louis ABANA Conference and the story of the chapter ring project has never been reported. I will not go into the whys or why nots of that — however, the members of BAM felt the story needed to be told. Thank you's need to be extended to the chapters that took part, to Francis Whitaker and his crew of six who forged and assembled the grill (James Honig, Nol Putnam, Tal Harris, Pete Renzetti, Bert Smith and Fred Crist). Thanks also goes to Jerry Hoffmann for designing the frame and to Orlinda and Bob Keers for buying the finished piece for \$8,500.

The six rings picked were Blacksmiths Association of Missouri, forged by Jerry Hoffmann, North Carolina, forged by Tal Harris, The Guild of Metalsmiths, John Adams, Lisa Elias, Curt Engstrom, Bob Fredell, John Hanks, Tom Latane' and David Mariette, Michigan, Scott Lankton, Texas Artist Blacksmith Association, Charles Stolte, and Appalachian Blacksmiths Association, Robert Elliot.

The remaining rings were sold for a total of \$2,400. These rings came from the following chapters: Appalachian Area Chapter, Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Alabama Forge Council, Blacksmiths Guild of Central Maryland, Arizona Artist-Blacksmith Association, Bonneville Forge Council, New England Blacksmiths, Western Canadian Black-

smiths Association, North Texas Blacksmith Association, Mid-Atlantic Smiths Association Great Plains Blacksmiths Association, Prairie Blacksmiths Association, Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association, Southern Ohio Forge Association, Rocky Mountain Smiths, Appalachian Blacksmith Association, Canadian Blacksmiths. Total program brought in \$10,900.

The originally stated purpose of the program was to get the chapters working together and to raise much needed funds for ABANA.

I would say the program reached its objectives, however I have put off writing to the chapters to thank them for their efforts thinking the story would be told in the Anvil's Ring. I hope this belated thank you will suffice.

The project was not without controversy. The deadline was extended when we changed the program from BAM building the grill and assembling before the conference to having Francis do a workshop at the conference. One chapter complained about changing the deadline, however we decided to go ahead with the change.

There was also some expression of dislike when it was noticed that only rings were chosen that had 100 percent traditional forging. True, it was not explained that way in the beginning. But when Francis made the call we stuck with it.

Again on behalf of BAM and ABANA let me thank everyone for their efforts. There were several letters sent with the rings. The three printed here give merit to the success of the overall effort:

Dear Mr. Clark,  
The ring project made by the Guild of Metalsmiths depicts an aquatic scene

characteristic of the area that it serves, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Centered in the lake region of the U.S., our area is home to many species of aquatic life and waterfowl. Among these species is the snowy egret, the focal point of this ring. Chiseled out of bronze, and embellished in repousse', this bird is depicted doing its majestic and characteristic mating dance.

From the forging of the ring, to the chase and chisel work of each component that make up this three-dimensional hologram, traditional metal-smithing techniques were used. In fact, many tools and chisels had to be made specifically for this project.

Each element of the design was executed by a different person. The materials in this project are mild steel, 16 gauge sheet metal, bronze and mica. The vegetation on the bordering appliques was tinted by applying boiled linseed oil and heating the pieces. The iron is finished with varnish and wax, and the bronze has been patinated and waxed.

In the event that we are fortunate enough to have our ring selected for placement in the six-ring grid, we have provided decorative rivets especially made for this ring, as well as directions for their placement. If they could be used we feel that they would enhance the total effect.

This project has been fun and an education for all of us. From the design to the graphic layouts, the execution and assembly of all the component parts, this ring has given us great experience and we have grown as metalsmiths.

On behalf of the six other participants: John Adams, Lisa Elias, Curt Engstrom, Bob Fredell, John Hanks, and Tom Latane', The Guild of Metalsmiths, I proudly submit our entry to the ABANA Conference ring project.

Sincerely,  
David Mariette, Guild of Metalsmiths

I have been smithing professionally

for a little over 10 years. . . the primary challenge in my work is to confront the limitations of my abilities and imagination and thus expand my horizons. This past year one of the big challenges has been to explore the area of decorative chiselling, chasing and repousse', and layering. The details in this ring are all derived from a series of firescreens I have made this past year. The sun in the center is an important symbol for me. It represents the heat of the fire, the source of life and the rejuvenation of the art of forging ironwork.

I would like to take the opportunity here to acknowledge my debt to the blacksmithing organizations of which I am a member, the Berkshire Blacksmiths, New England Blacksmiths, and the granddaddy of them all, ABANA. All have provided me with invaluable information, ideas, and challenges and most importantly with the sense of fellowship/community and the knowledge that at least there is someone out there who understands what it takes to create this stuff!

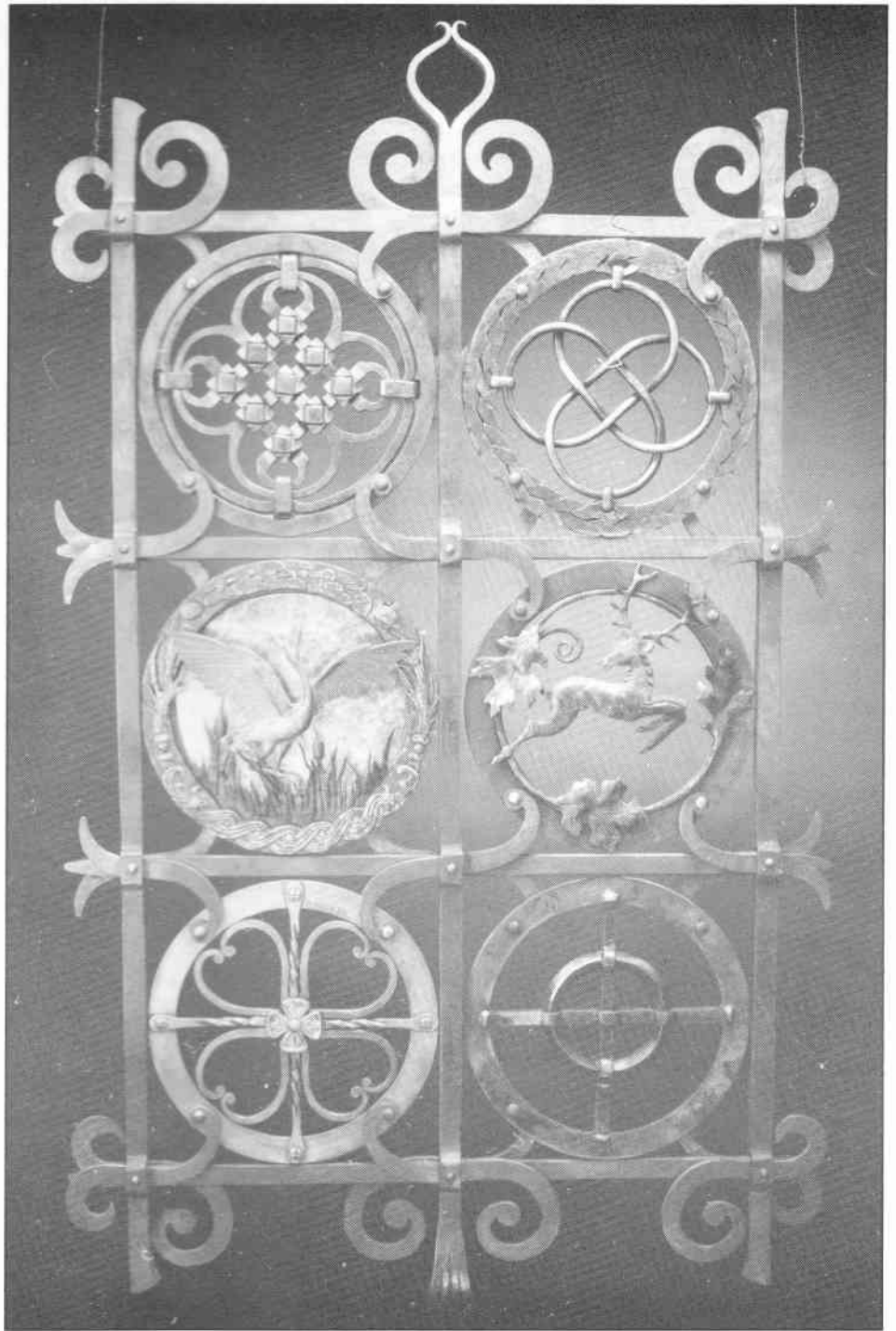
Bob Compton, Rising Sun Forge, New England Blacksmiths.

This ring was made by Bob Elliott, a member of the Appalachian Blacksmith Association from Fairmont, W.V.

The outside of the ring is made of 1 inch by 1/4 inch mild steel bent to form a ring and then forge welded together. The inside is composed of three pieces of 1/2 inch square stock. The first piece is split in the center, then drifted to allow the second piece to pass through. These two pieces form the 90 degree intersection at the center of the completed ring. The next step was to split off all four arms at the same distance from the center and drift to form a diamond shape opening in each arm. The outside ring was split at four places and drifted to form four mortises. Next the four arms extending from the center circle were split to form tenons. The tenons were bent and placed through the mortises in the outside ring. The tenons were then headed to complete the ring.

Appalachian Blacksmith Association

MAY — JUNE 1996



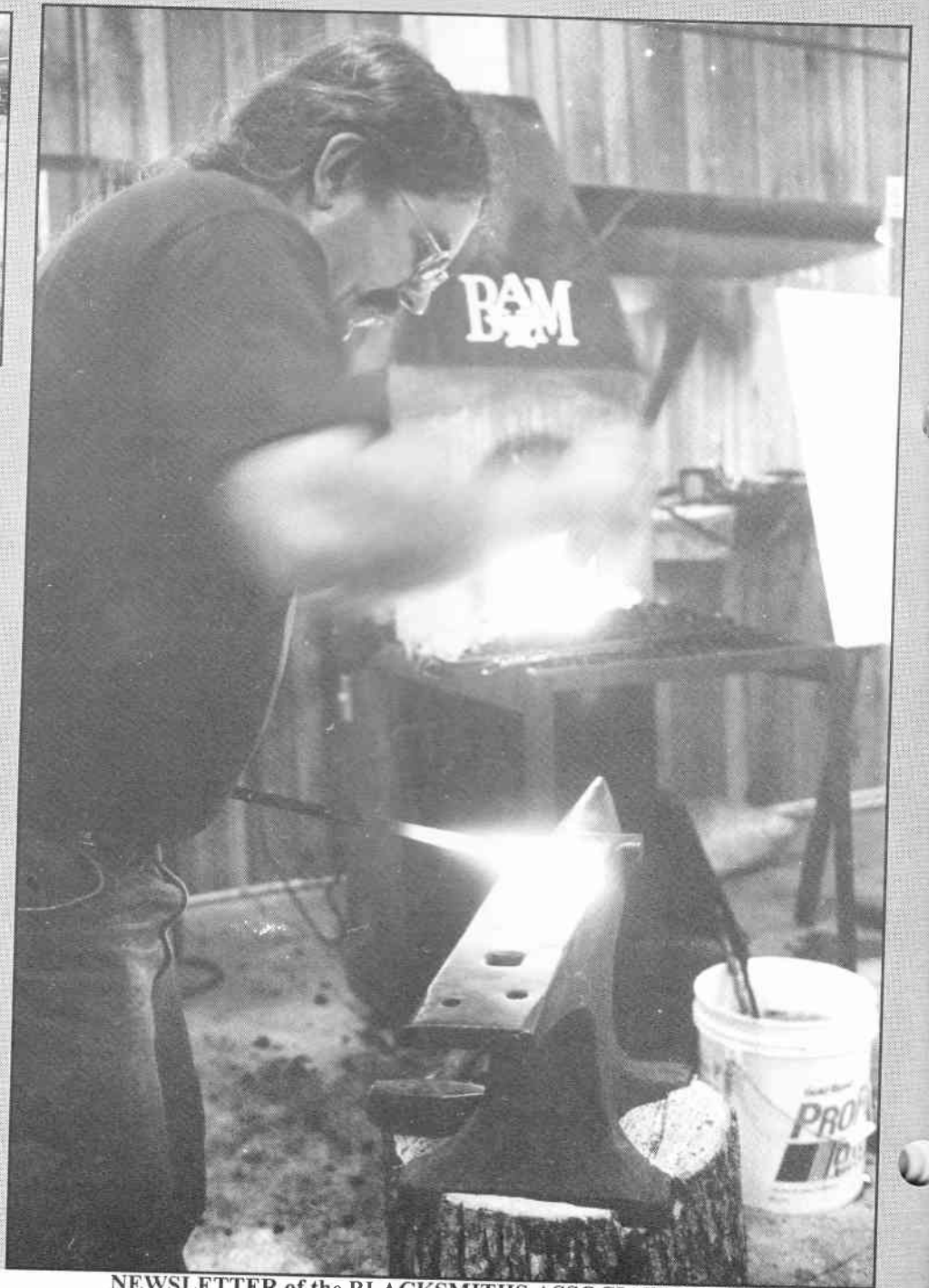
*The ring project came together in this grill designed by Jerry Hoffmann and constructed by Francis Whitaker and his crew. The rings were created by: top left, BAM, Jerry Hoffmann; top right, North Carolina, Tal Harris; center left, The Guild of Metalsmiths, John Adams, Lisa Elias, Curt Engstrom, Bob Fredell, John Hanks, Tom Latane' and David Mariette; Center right, Michigan, Scott Lankton; bottom left, Texas Artist Blacksmith Association, Charles Stolte; and bottom right, Appalachian Blacksmith Association, Robert Eliot.*

*Right: Ruth and Walt Hull did their part to cheer on the contestants in the taper forging contest while John Murray waits for his turn.*

# 1996 Ozark Conference



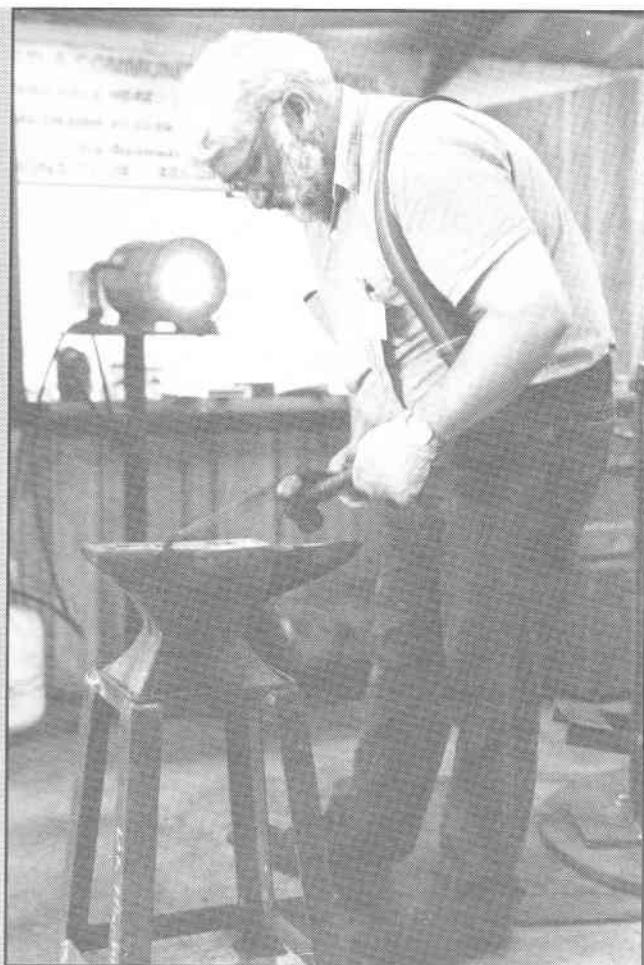
*Above: Tim Underwood tries to imagine what he can buy with the money he is about to get from Brian Anderson. Tim had the vise concession at the conference. Right: Some of us got to see Dan Siglar pound some hot iron for the first time during the contest Friday night. This guy hits hard!*







*Above: Dorothy Stiegler tries to keep cool at welding heat while Ken Markley watches. Dorothy was one of three demonstrators at the conference. Right: Knifemaker Bob Haverstock showed us how he does his trademark D-handled knives using a much admired gas forge and a treadle hammer of his own design.*



## Photos by Jim McCarty



*Above: The conference once again featured a triple anvil shoot. This time it was (from left) Gay Wilkinson, Tim Ryan and Tom Clark doing the honors. Gay finally got his lit and won the trophy for most accurate shooter. That award has never been won by a man from Tennessee (and some say it never will be!) In the background is the World's third largest bonfire.*

# Learning to say No

by Tom Clark

I have been trying to learn how to say no. Last year I was able to attend the Rocky Mountain Blacksmiths Conference for the first time. It was a great trip.

Upon my arrival I had a nice talk with Francis Whitaker or as it turns out Francis had a nice talk with me. Francis said, "Tom, I want to have another program like we had in St. Louis in 1994." I said, "That's great. Do you have things worked out with Charlie Orlando?" (Charlie is chairman of this year's conference.)

"No," he said. "I want you to do that." I told him I was not part of the conference committee. He said, "I know but you can make it happen."

I said, "Francis, they already have the program put together and besides it's too late to promote a ring project."

"Well, then we will have to do something else," was his response.

"I said, "OK, I'll pass it on to the conference committee."

To make a long story short the committee passed it back to me and said it's OK if you can make it happen. I am not learning very fast!

I asked Kim Harris if she could design a grill that Francis would like using square corners, forged scrolls and quatrefoils. She accepted the challenge and in short order had her first offering and then the final design. A list of Francis' loyal followers was contacted and the team was complete.

I thought you would enjoy seeing the drawing and letter of instructions to the team which tells the rest of the story.

This project will be completed at Alfred in time for Friday night's auction. Drop by and watch the team at work and ask Francis and his helpers

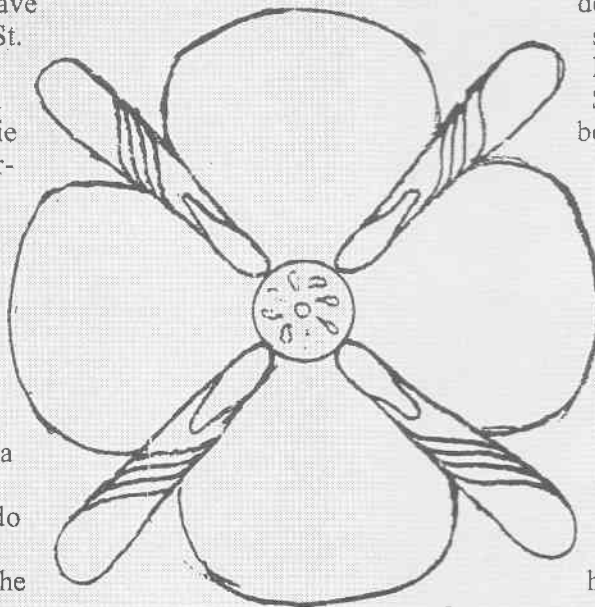
any questions you like. I am not part of the program. I finally learned how to say "No."

*Dear Conference Work Crew,*

Kim and Tal Harris have sent a full size drawing of the project. It is too much work to do at the conference. Here is my proposal. I will select each one of you to do one part. It will be a good test of team work many miles apart.

Tal has already said he would do the frame.

I will do the four interlocking scrolls.



George

Dixon, will you do the rosette, rivet and back plate?

Pete Renzetti, will you do the quatrefoil?

Judy Berger, will you do the collars?

Bob Becker, will you do the big ring?

James Honig, will you do the four corner scrolls?

If that is not agreeable, let me know at once.

*Tal:* Make the split for the collars 1/4 inch wide and 1 inch long. Open the split with a 1/4 inch x 3/4 inch drift, flatten slightly to make a seat for the collar. The exact dimension from inside one split to inside the other must be 27-1/2". Note, the

drawing is not quite 30" square, but let us work to that dimension, 30" square.

The four interlocking scrolls will have a lot of repetitive saw and notch, 32, best to have that done ahead.

*George:* The rosette and back plate should be of 3/16" stock, the decorative rivet long enough to go through everything with enough to head it up on the back.

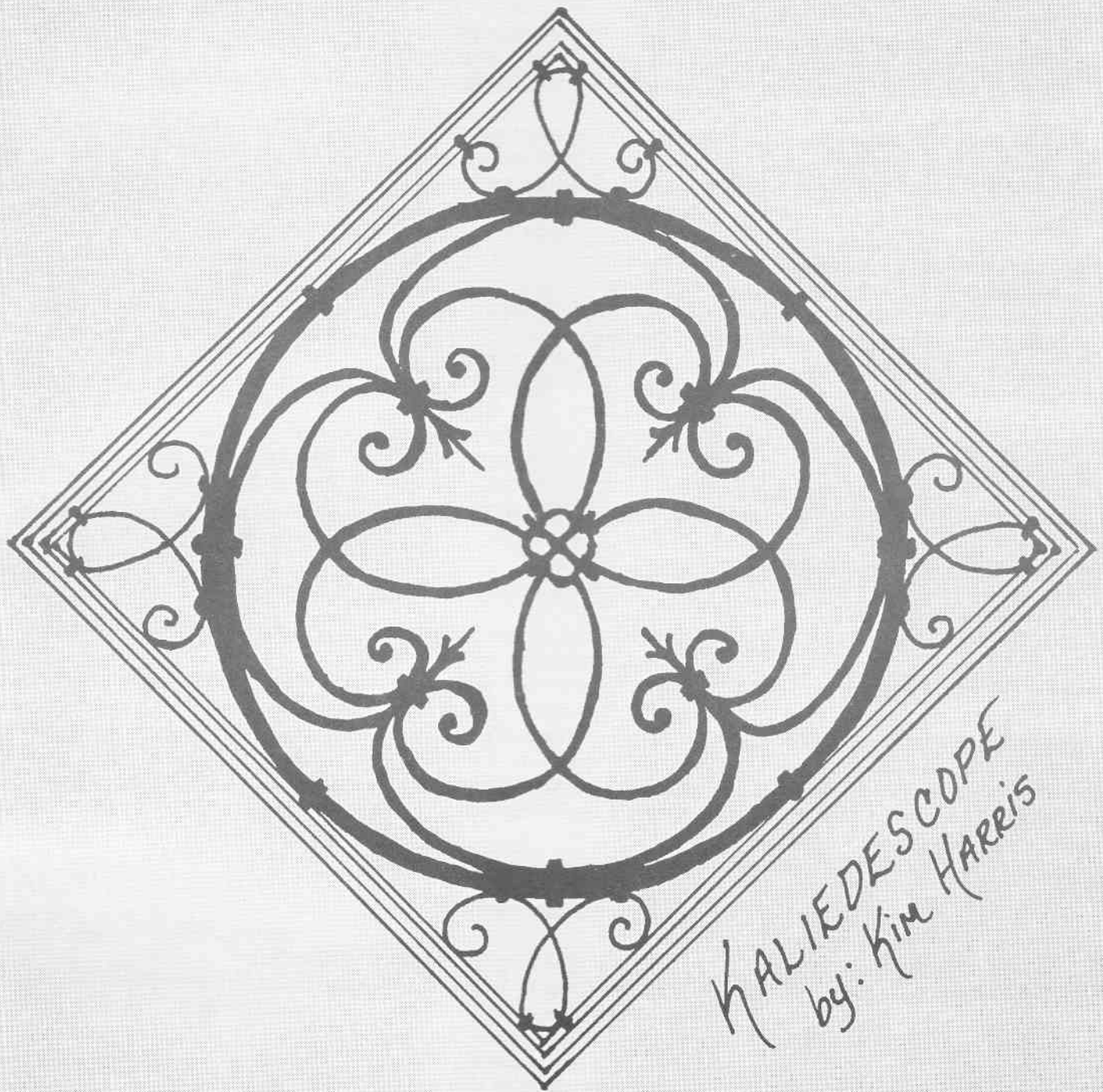
*Pete:* The quatrefoil should be made in two halves. It will be critical to hold the exact dimensions where the collars fit, so the length from point to point will be the same. The doubled back pieces can be forged to shape, but they must all be the same length from where the collar fits. Scarf the ends so the first weld will be flat on the anvil and finished on the horn. Use the old wagon tire technique for the final two welds.

Put the scarves heel to heel, drill a hole, then we can rivet the ends on site and do the final two welds. I have used that recently on rings, use a 3/16" rivet, works well. You will need to scribe a 26-1/4" ring to fit to.

*Judy Berger:* As to collars, I prefer not so many variations. Let's use flat stock around the frame and half round for the center. Four main collars of 3/16" x 5/8", I can send that if you do not have it. Center collars take 3/8" round and forge it into a 7/16" bottom swage. find one or borrow one if you do not have it. Do not cut or bend the half round collars, there is a different technique in cutting the length. I will bring the necessary collar blocks. Corner collars of 3/16" x 1/2".

*Bob Becker:* The ring is to be 1/2" x 5/8" square and must be 27-1/2" outside diameter. Maybe forge 5/8" square down to size.

*James Honig:* The four corner scrolls will have to be shaped, scribed, then opened up at ONE point in order to get the half notches cut. If you cannot get 5/16" x 1/2" I will send enough.



KALIEDESCOPE  
by: Kim HARRIS

# BAM

## Shop Notes

*Got a tip to share? Jot it down and send it to the editor, Jim McCarty, 5821 Helias Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101*

### Removing scale

*Editor's note: The following tips are in response to an inquiry on removing scale made on the Forge, ABANA's Internet mail list.*

Use a lot of Sparex over the year. It is an acid that dissolves the scale and leaves the metal texture more or less unchanged. "Sandblasting" is much more abrasive and will slightly alter the metal's texture. Quite frankly, if I need to descale a small piece (something that will fit into a 5 gallon bucket) I throw it into the Sparex. Big items get sand/bead blasted or just power brushed. It is a bit tough to toss a coffee table into a 5 gallon bucket.

— Franklyn D. Garland

Pig manure plus human urine, let work set a day or two, rinse and you will have a nice soft coating of red iron oxide. This is an old wire drawers trick, real old. Not suitable for indoor use for obvious reasons.

— Bill Hochewa

Vinegar which is generally about a 5 percent solution, this is nice and slow and I don't have to worry if I leave the steel in for another few minutes or even if I forget and leave for several hours (several days can destroy things especially small pieces). But besides that you can use strong old tea. That's right! The stuff you drink. Tea is a tannic acid solution very weak but it does work and gives a nice old timey look to a piece (imho). What I usually do is drink tea and of course water throughout the day and at the end of the day I throw the tea into a bucket. It starts out strong and then gradually through evaporation and such the tea mess gets even darker. With tea or vinegar you can if necessary retrieve the piece by hand. I try to use tongs though because I really don't want to smell like a salad and the combination of iron and vinegar creates a dark dye that is hard to scrub off. (However it also gives a pretty rust colored dye to white fabric, for anybody who does dyeing/ spinning/ weaving). These two solutions are also about as cheap as can be to make and use.

— S. Sweebe

I've mostly used vinegar for descaling steel. If you soak a piece overnight, the scale falls off and a light wire brushing will yield a bright, clean surface. Sparex No. 1 is for ferrous metals, Sparex No. 2 is for non-ferrous. I've not used Sparex, but reportedly it works very well.

— D.C. Hufford

### Blacksmithing rules

An old standard Carpenter's square can sometimes be bought at a garage sale or at an auction for next to nothing. Cut one leg off. You can have a 2- foot rule or about a 16-inch rule depending on which way you cut it.

— Mike George

Leave a little of the cut off leg and you have a nice big hook rule. Get another one and cut out various

widths, i.e., 1/4 inch thru 1 inch by quarters and you have what the Germans call a blacksmith's helper (not to be confused with the Smithin' Magician). Very handy when working tenons or tapers. Works on round or square, the holes don't know the difference.

— Kenny Valdejo

### What keeps Clay cool

When wearing gloves around hot iron, Kevlar is my favorite. The first ones I saw (and still most common) were the felted gloves. They wear holes in them pretty quick and then are dangerous if you forget where the holes are. The ones which get my vote for long wear are the terry cloth or looped pile fabric Kevlar. I believe they last 10 times longer than the felted. They are not as good on the insulation but last much longer. You can wear a thin cotton liner for more insulation. Any leather glove (or any other glove) should be loose enough so you can sling it off before you get a bad burn.

— Clay Spencer

### Junkyard steel from GM

Here is a little tidbit I came across last weekend at The Constitution Village Hammer-In in Hunstville, Alabama. Thought some of you might like to have this in your archive. Steel types in Pre-1978 GM Cars and Trucks

Leaf spring — 5160

Coil Spring — 5160 or 9260

Axle Shaft — 1050

Transmission Shaft — 1141

Inlet Valve — 3140

Exhaust Valve — Armco #21-YN

Connecting Rod — 1038 or 10374

— Michavel Linn

### Estimate anvil weight

One can estimate the weight of a standard anvil by its dimensions.

10 lb anvil:

face is 6 x 2; horn, 3 1/2"; hgt., 4";

base, 3 1/2"

100lb.

face, 14 x 3 3/8; horn, 9 3/4"; waist, 5"; heal, 13/16; drop, 13/16, hh, 7/8

125lb

face, 15 1/2x3 1/2; horn 10 1/2; waist, 5 1/4; heal, 7/8; dp, 7/8; hh, 15/16

160lb

face, 17 1/2x4; horn, 11 1/2; waist, 5 1/2; heal, 15/16; drop, 15/16; hh, 1"

200lb

face 19x4 1/4; horn, 12; waist, 6; heal, 1, drop, 1; hh, 1 1/16

225lb

face, 19 1/2x4 1/2; horn, 12 1/2; waist, 6 1/2; heal, drop, 1 1/16, hh, 1 1/16

900lb

face 28 x 8 horn, 19"; height, 18; base 19x16; hh 2"

A farrier's anvil will usually have a

longer horn and shorter face, but other dimensions are close. One should be able to estimate the weight of their anvil, ± 25 lbs.

— Page Thomas

### Dorothy's Wax

You may have heard Dorothy Steigler mention that she likes to use Renaissance Wax on her projects. This ad is mentioned in Knives Illustrated: For over 30 years Renaissance Wax from England has been the number one choice of major museums, art galleries and institutions for the preservative of their precious pieces. For many years now, knifemakers and collectors have been relying on this fine product to protect their cutlery pieces. Use a minimal amount of Renaissance Wax on your knives and it will prevent tarnish, corrosion and bloom, will guard your pieces from the damaging effects of humidity, heat, dust, aging and ordinary wear. One 200 ml. bottle is only

\$16 plus \$4 S&H from: Cutler Specialties, 22 Morris Lane, Great Neck, NY 11024.

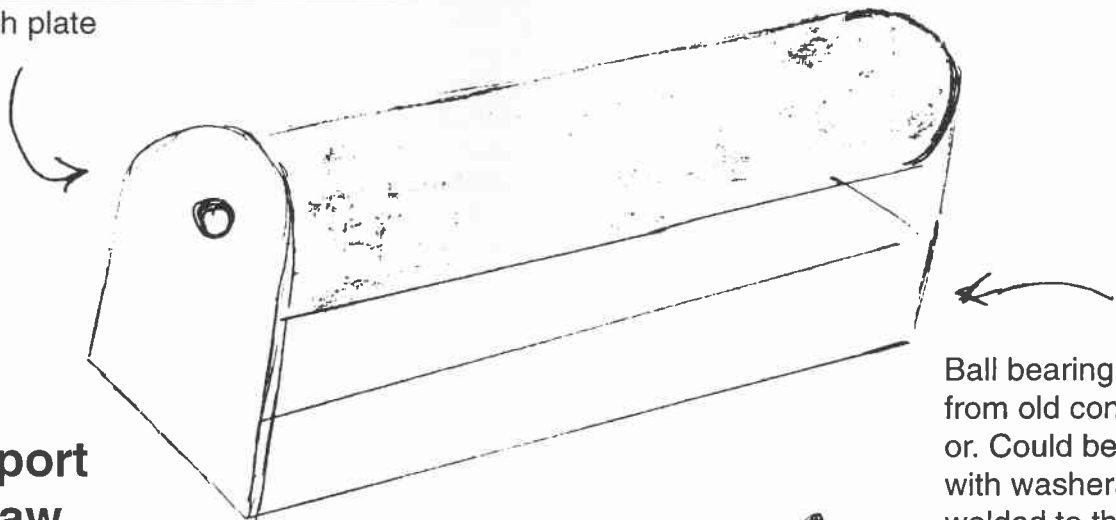
—From the California Blacksmith

### Source for flat belts

If you need wide flat belting to run power hammers or other tools, check out your local farm machinery dealer. Hay balers for making large round (5 foot to 6 foot diameter) bales use rubber or rubber-faced canvas belting to roll the hay. Depending upon the make and model the belting can be from 3 inches to over 7 inches wide. In normal use these belts only wear in spots. That means there is a lot of perfectly good belting in the dealer's scrap pile. I traded a couple of small hooks to the baler mechanic for a piece of belting the length I needed, complete with brand new, machine installed lacing.

— Mike George

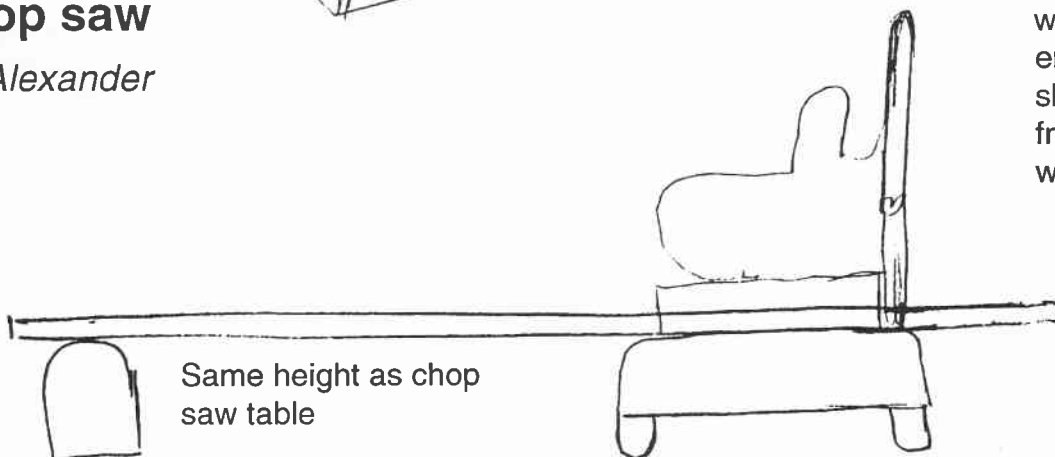
1/8 inch plate



## Stock support for chop saw

by Bob Alexander

Ball bearing roller from old conveyor. Could be pipe with washers welded to the ends with rod for shaft or roller from an old typewriter.



Same height as chop saw table

# BAM NEWS

## Get in free

The Louisiana Metalsmiths Association has graciously offered us a gift certificate that will allow one BAM member to get into their third annual "Banging on the Bayou Conference to be held Oct. 5-6 in Covington, La. Elmer Roush will be one of the demonstrators. For more info contact Buddy Leonard at (504) 892-1137.

## Treadle hammers Part 2

If you missed out on the treadle hammer workshop BAM held a few years ago take note: We are planning a second workshop to be held sometime next fall. Clay Spencer will again be the instructor and we will probably use Lou Mueller's shop in Valley Park. Clay says he can take as few as 10 or as many as 25. If you are interested contact John Sharp at (816) 331-8007 or write to 18700 S. Prospect, Belton, Mo. 64012. If you built one at the last workshop please let others get into this one as space will probably be limited and it's first come, first served. Once the class is filled we will work out the details, date, cost, etc. Last time the hammers cost \$250. Thanks to John for getting this ball rolling.

## Update those addresses

If you move please send an address correction to Maurice Ellis at the address on the bottom of the back

cover of this newsletter. The postal rules require that all first class mail be returned to sender when the address has changed. If you have filed a change of address with the post office we will get a change of address with the returned newsletter. You will either miss an issue of the newsletter or we will have to pay additional postage to send it to the new address. So as soon as you know that you are moving please send a change of address to us. The same goes with addresses that have changed due to 911 service, etc.

## September meeting idea

At the Ozark Conference Bob Maes had a real nice Hay-Bud-den anvil for sale that was missing half of the face plate. Several of us got to talking about how to fix it and we came up with a wild idea — let's weld a new one on. Bob was willing and John Murray offered to give it a try at the September meeting he is hosting. The plan is to dig a trench and put a tuyere attached to Bob Alexander's coal stove blower in the trench to heat the anvil. At the same time we will bring a new face plate to welding temperature inside. Then we'll bring the two together and weld it with a team of strikers.

## UMBA in August

The Upper Midwest Blacksmiths Association welcomes Brad Silberberg as its demonstrator for the 1996 UMBACON in Baraboo, WI. Brad owns and operates Bradley Metal Design, Inc. in Silver Spring, MD on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. He is well known for his "squashed" containers and architectural and sculptural forging. Plan to bring a forge and tools, you won't want to miss this opportunity.

The fee is \$20 for Saturday and \$10 for Sunday. Camping is \$8, \$5 for tents. Showers on sight. Informal open forge on Friday night. Demonstrations Saturday from 9 am to noon and 1:30 to 4:30. Brad will give a slide presentation on Saturday night and demonstrate again on Sunday from 9 am to noon. Auction is late

Saturday afternoon. For more info call Nana Showalter at (608) 523-4750.

## Rendezvous time

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association will hold its primitive Rendezvous in Jamesport, Mo. this year. The event will be held in the northwest Missouri town from July 6-13. This event will be open to the public for just two days, July 6-7 from 8 am to 5 pm. It would be a great place to sell your forged wares, not just to the public but especially to the buckskinners who must use only authentic utensils and tools. For more information contact Rick or Cindy Asher at (816) 632-6048. Jamesport is home to Missouri's largest Amish settlement and this area gets droves of tourists from the Kansas City area. Should be a great event.

## Ozark Conference results

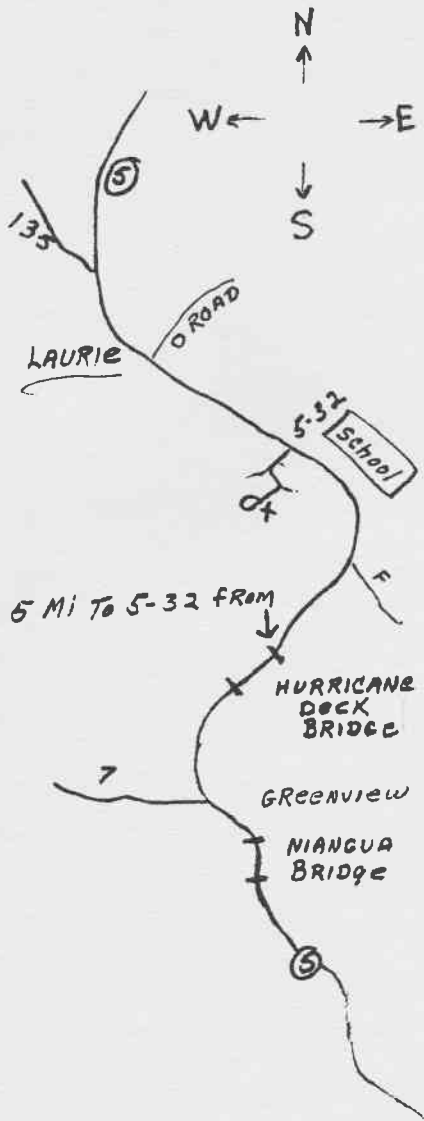
Conference chairman Maurice Ellis and Treasurer Gary Kobermann kept close tabs on how much we spent and took in at the Ozark Conference. The final tally showed we lost \$29 when all the dust had settled. Fortunately, we brought in over \$7,000 at the auction so we are once again in good financial condition. Thanks to everyone who donated items and bought items, and a special thanks to Tim Ryan and John Stovesand for taking our bids.

## Election time

Elections for BAM officers will be held at our July meeting. We are having a tough time getting folks to agree to run. If you would like to step forward as one of the group's officers we will be glad to take your nomination. Either call Jim McCarty at (573) 395-3304 or get someone to nominate you on July 13. Here's the list of candidates so far:

President: Pat McCarty  
1st vice president: Bob Alexander  
2nd vice president: Vernon Fisher  
Secretary: John Murray  
Treasurer: Maurice Ellis and Walt Hull

FROM 52 & 5 Versailles  
Go So. on 5, 20.5 Mi To 5-32



FROM CAMDENTON 54 & 5  
GO No. ON 5, 17.3 MI To 5-32

## Next Meeting July 13, 1996, Sunrise Beach, Mo.

Jim Kendzora is the host for BAM's next gathering set for July 13 at his shop near Sunrise Beach at the Lake of the Ozarks. Our July meeting is always reserved for a little fun in the sun so be sure to bring your swim suits along. There will be plenty of things to do in the area so also bring the family.

Jim has been hosting hammer-ins at his shop on Thursday evenings for some time so I know he is prepared to entertain visitors. Along the way he has quietly become quite a blacksmith as his trade items would indicate.

Not sure what Jim has in mind for us but there are rumours that the notorious McCarty brothers may be asked to step up to the forge so bring your safety glasses.

Trade item will be a coffee mug holder. Those who stayed late at the March meeting saw Drew Johnson demonstrate how to do this (except his was destined to hold something different!)

Jim says lunch will be on your own. He will have a map of the local restaurants — there are dozens of them within a short drive of the shop.

To get to the meeting site find Highway 5 — those coming from St. Louis or Kansas City can pick up Highway 5 at Boonville, or if you are daring and coming from the east you can get off at Jefferson City on Highway 54 and take that to Eldon where you will take 52 to 5. If you are coming from the Springfield area (that's Missouri to you guys in Illinois) you will pick up 5 at Lebanon.

Once you are on Highway 5 look for Lake Road 5-32 and follow that to Jim's shop (see the map at right for mileage.)

Provided the editor got Joe Wilkinson's signs to Jim the route will be marked in three places.

Don't forget to bring something for the Iron in the Hat and your wallet so you can win your stuff back.

See you at the Lake on July 13.



## 1996 Schedule

**July Meeting**  
Jim Kendzora, Sunrise  
Beach, Mo, July 13  
Trade item: Coffee  
mug holder

**September Meeting**  
John Murray, New  
Melle, Mo. Date to be  
announced

**November Meeting**  
Joe Wilkinson, Hope,  
Mo. Date to be  
announced

**January 1997 Meeting**  
Got any ideas?



*For sale: Six blacksmiths, reasonably good shape. Willing to work for food. Inquire at your local Ozark Conference. These guys volunteered to be auctioned off at the conference, with the winner getting their services for a day. From left are John Stovesand, Lou Mueller, V.J. McCrackin, Tom Clark, Jerry Hoffmann and John Murray.*

**BAM**  
**5821 Helias Dr.**  
**Jefferson City, MO 65101**

**(Note New Address)**

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